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witness to the fact that the author is writing as a scholar rather than as a French patriot. He treats as coldly and judiciously of Bismarck and Delcassé as he would of Otto the Great or Clovis; he describes Fashoda and the policy of William II. with an equal detachment. One might have expected that recent events would affect the tone of a French historian, that he would unconsciously display bitterness toward Germany and a certain leniency towards Russia, Italy, and Great Britain. There is nothing of this to be discovered in M. Debidour's treatment. As between Russia and Germany he is strictly impartial; Italian ambitions are frankly criticized. The fact that he is dealing with the policy of a power now closely allied with France, does not prevent him from passing openly hostile judgments upon many of Great Britain's actions. British policy in Egypt draws from him the sarcastic phrase, "Gladstone, despite the principles of morality and liberalism which he had so often advertised, was too good an Englishman to give up possession [of Egypt]". Nor does he mince his words in discussing the aggressive spirit of the British in their dealings with the Boers. German policy is handled coldly and succinctly, and always without animus.

The brevity of the treatment allotted to Germany must, perhaps, be counted as a defect. Germany's policy of tempting Russia Asiawards in the Nineties, in order to strengthen her own diplomatic position in Europe, is indicated. But there is little upon her economic development and aspirations for sea power, and nothing upon the Bagdad Railway or German plans for power and expansion in Turkey and the Middle East. It is possible that M. Debidour purposes to discuss the origins of German world-policy in his next volume; but the omission of this important topic from his present work unquestionably weakens his exposition of the beginnings of the Anglo-French Entente. Another defect results necessarily from the limited space which the author has allowed himself: he is forced to disregard almost entirely the significance of personality in diplomacy. There are brief characterizations of Delcassé and Edward VII., to whom due credit is given for the Entente of 1904, and also of Cecil Rhodes, Nicholas II., and William II. But in general the author leaves the reader in the dark as to the personality of the sovereigns and diplomats; even when he speaks of them by name he is apt to treat them as chessmen on a board.

American readers will also regret the absence of exact references. A useful list of general authorities is given at the beginning of each chapter, but it is only in rare cases that citations are put in the footnotes. Following the unfortunate French custom in works dealing with recent history, there is no index.

CHARLES SEYMOUR.

Diplomatic Documents relating to the Outbreak of the European War. Edited with an Introduction by JAMES BROWN SCOTT. In two volumes. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace,

Division of International Law.] (New York: Oxford University Press. 1916. Pp. lxxxii, 767; xcii, 771-1516.)

Official Diplomatic Documents relating to the Outbreak of the European War: with Photographic Reproductions of Official Editions of the Documents (Blue, White, Yellow, etc., Books) published by the Governments of Austro-Hungary, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, and Serbia. Introduction, Daily Summaries, Cross-References, and Foot-Notes by EDMUND VON MACH, A.B., Ph.D. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1916. Pp. xxii, 608, appendixes 650 pp.)

THE important causes of the European conflict are not the events of the five weeks just before the beginning of the struggle, but vast forces whose gradual development attracted more and more attention after 1871. The most striking single factor was the prodigious increase of Germany and the resulting difficult process of adjustment in European relations; while the enmity of Slav and Teuton, the rivalry of Germany and England, differences in birth-rate, pressure of population, excessive nationalism, and the mere circumstances of the earth's geography, had much to do in producing the result. While these things will in the end be more considered, and rightly so, yet the immediate causes of so mighty an event cannot fail to be studied with greatest care. This is already possible because the diplomatic intercourse of the last critical days has been largely published by the respective governments in successive books or papers. There is no doubt that the information thus afforded is not complete, but it is evidently the basic source-material for any investigation at present, and it is probable that no large additions will be made to it for some time to come. It has, therefore, been examined and interpreted in several excellent studies, while many of the documents have before now been assembled in collections, the best being the admirable *Collected Diplomatic Documents* published by the British government.

The two publications here examined constitute a distinct advance over anything hitherto accomplished, and one of them, at any rate, that given forth by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, should be the standard collection on the subject for some time to come. It is simply an assemblage of sources, brought together in two superb volumes, beautifully printed and well arranged. The work of the editor has scarcely gone beyond obtaining the originals and reproducing faithfully the best English translations. For some of the papers he has made tables of contents, but the documents are printed without annotation. Evidently it is the purpose of this work to furnish the student with the best and most comprehensive collection of the sources, but not to assist him further in the study of them, except that there is a large and excellent index. The documents are printed from the originals, when these are in English, and when in other languages from the official English

translations. This collection is the most complete hitherto published, and contains beside the documents usually assembled the second *Austrian Red Book*, concerning relations with Italy, most of the *Second Belgian Gray Book*, the second *British Blue Book*, relating to the rupture of relations with Turkey, the *Italian Green Book*, and the second *Russian Orange Book*, concerning relations with Turkey.

Dr. von Mach's volume¹ is also, in spite of grave faults, a noteworthy addition to the source-collections for this subject, and it not only possesses striking features as regards arrangement and material included, but in addition it undertakes to supply critical apparatus and commentary in the numerous notes which are added. He realizes, as everyone must who enters upon the study of this material, that it is an intricate task to thread one's way through the maze of the various despatches, where constantly in one there is allusion to another, and where frequently one can best be understood in the light of information contained in another. He has, therefore, printed them somewhat as a chronicle, grouping together in alphabetical arrangement all of the despatches written on a particular day under the date of that day. I believe this to be of considerable assistance, though nothing but prolonged study and exact attention will enable one to surmount the difficulties which inhere in this task. But the most striking feature, and the one which gives to the volume its particular merit, is that the second half of the book is given over to facsimiles by photographic reproduction, of the originals of the various *Books*, and I know of nothing else that affords so conveniently the English translations for easy comparison with the original French of the Belgian, French, Russian, and Servian documents, and the original German of the Austrian and German governments. It should be said that the English translations are throughout the official British version, which the editor declares to be excellent. In respect of contents, it should be noticed that this collection is much less inclusive than that of the Carnegie Endowment, since it contains few documents after the first fateful days in August.

The annotations, which are very numerous, are the unsatisfactory part of the work, and it is probable that the editor's reputation for historical scholarship would have been greater had he omitted them entirely. They make specious attempt at avoidance of partizanship, but scarcely anywhere does he question the motives of Austria or Germany, while constantly the sayings of opposing statesmen are examined with elaborate scrutiny and considerable suspicion. I believe that there are few mistakes in direct statement, but there is throughout a tendency, perhaps involuntary, toward unwarrantable implication, and there is a great deal of inconsequential observation, flimsy reasoning, careless statement, and improper deduction. Perhaps a large amount of labor has been devoted to this comment, and some of what relates to correction of chronology

¹ We understand that the publishers have withdrawn Dr. von Mach's book from publication because of inaccuracies discovered in it.

or the explanation of allusions will be of real assistance, but the remainder is either too obvious to be of much importance, or of such character that it will be rather a hindrance than a help to correct understanding of the documents noticed. These notes are not, what the editor seems to wish them to be, the necessary apparatus explanatory of a reliable source-book, but, either unintentionally or because he could not help it, merely an exposition of the German point of view, expounded more ably and with more moderation and restraint than it has been expounded by most of the partizans who have written in this cause, but possessing nevertheless most of the faults which have debased their presentation.

EDWARD RAYMOND TURNER.

La Belgique et les Juristes Allemands. Par CHARLES DE VISSCHER, Professeur à la Faculté de Droit de l'Université de Gand. Préface de M. J. VAN DEN HEUVEL. (Lausanne and Paris: Payot et Cie. 1916. Pp. xix, 134.)

Belgium's Case: a Juridical Enquiry. By CH. DE VISSCHER, Professor of Law in the University of Ghent. Translated from the French by E. F. JOURDAIN. (London and New York: Hodder and Stoughton. 1916. Pp. xxiv, 164.)

THIS study is of great value, and is the best on the subject. The author is so fitted for his task that in all places he can speak with authority and decision. He does not debase his science to plead, but having a case to expound, he proceeds through exposition with exact knowledge, wealth of illustration, and calm analysis of theories and statements. What Belgians must regard as an awful crime committed upon their country may have filled his heart with bitterness, but there is no trace of it in the writing; and his erudition and critical judgment are equalled by a calmness and detachment which might pertain to disquisition academic about events of a great while ago. In the end temperateness no less than ability renders most of the conclusions irresistible. The translation, not literally faithful with respect to some details, is nevertheless accurate and good.

The author distinguishes between *Notwehr*, self-defense, and *Notrecht*, right which necessity may induce, characterized by conflict of rights and duties. With this latter many have defended the invasion of Belgium. Josef Kohler says that there is right of necessity where ordinary rules of juridical organization suggest no way of resolving the problem: "*Law must bow before Fact* and side with the conqueror: *factum valet*." The author, however, has no difficulty in showing that Germans made very different statements as to what their need might be. Self-defense against alleged imminent invasion of Belgium by France was advanced along with mere necessity founded on strategic conditions. But no satisfactory proofs were ever given of the first, while the second, he says, has